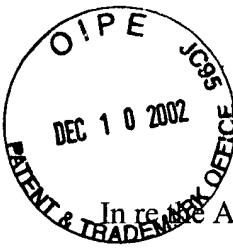


13/B

Orrick No. 700470.17  
 (former L&L No. 252/124)



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

**Michael K. Skinner and Jodi L. Patton**

**Serial No.: 09/676,052**

**Filed: September 28, 2000**

**For: A METHOD OF DETERMINING  
 TUMOR CHARACTERISTICS BY  
 DETERMINING ABNORMAL COPY  
 NUMBER OR EXPRESSION LEVEL OF  
 LIPID-ASSOCIATED GENES**

) ) **Group Art Unit: 1655**

) ) **Examiner: Ethan C. Whisenant**

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 16 2002**

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Box RCE**  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment to address the issues pending in the Office Action dated November 19, 2001 in the previous case.

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
 (37 C.F.R. §1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

EV 207872422 US  
 Express Mail Label No.

December 10, 2002  
 Date of Deposit  
 DOCSOC1:131291.1  
 700470-17 K2M

Lynne Fulmer

Name of Person Mailing Paper

Lynne Fulmer

Signature of Person Mailing Paper